

HONORING A'MYA IREANNA DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. A'Mya Ireanna Davis, who is a remarkable student that is making a difference in her community.

A'Mya Ireanna Davis, a Crystal Springs, MS native, is the daughter of Mr. Roderick and Monica Davis. She is the eldest of two siblings, Malik Jones and Eunicesia Jones.

A'Mya is a ninth grade honor student at Crystal Springs High School where she serves as President of the Freshman Class. Known as a busy-body, A'mya is very active in her school, church, and community. She is a member of the Crystal Springs High School Band, the Soccer team, the Track and Field team, Student Council, the Drama Club, a member of My Sister's Keeper, an Usher, member of the church choir at Brushy Creek MB Church and serves as Youth Secretary and Treasurer for the Fran's Branch New Hope Sunday School Institute.

A'Mya is very passionate about her city and community. In 2012, she became the youngest person to serve on the Crystal Springs Mayor's Youth Council. While on the Council, she was involved in community organizing, performing at youth summits and serving as a representative for the youth in Crystal Springs at state-wide leadership conferences. Throughout all of her accomplishments at the very tender age of 14, A'Mya is a normal teen who loves to sing, dance, write music and poetry, and recite speeches. After high school, A'mya plans on attending Harvard University to become a prominent attorney.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an energetic and dedicated student, Ms. A'Mya Ireanna Davis, for her determination to make a difference in the Crystal Springs community.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE
WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Washington Middle School in Lyons, Illinois, for being named to the list of top performing middle grades schools in the country by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform.

George Washington represents one of only 103 middle grades schools from around the United States that were recognized as a "School to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. To achieve this honor, George Washington had to prove that they are academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable. They are among the best schools in the country in those regards, and I am glad to see these schools recognized for their excellence.

Achieving such a high level of performance is not easy. Schools must establish an educational culture that creates structures, norms, and organizational support to sustain their im-

proving trend toward excellence. Principal Johnny Billingsley has demonstrated a sense of purpose that drives his decision making. Further this performance could not be possible without teachers who work tirelessly for their students and communities, and administrators, who work to provide a professional atmosphere to let teachers do what they do best. This hard work and dedication has created an exemplary learning atmosphere.

This achievement is made possible through the hard work and dedication of the students, and the loving guidance by their parents and guardians. The students' work ethic and the values that their parents have instilled within them made this award attainable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding faculties and students at George Washington Middle School, and congratulating them for being recognized as one of the outstanding middle grades schools in the country. May they continue to exhibit excellence and create one of the best learning environments in the country for our future leaders.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ANN DEMATTEO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to take a moment to pay tribute to a very special member of the Greater New Haven community, Ann DeMatteo, who was taken from us much too soon when she lost her battle with breast cancer. Daughter, sister, aunt, colleague, mentor, and friend, Ann was a remarkable woman whose passion, good nature, and infectious laugh touched the lives of many and will long be remembered by all of those fortunate enough to have known her.

Ann was a journalist spending the majority of her career as a reporter for the New Haven Register but also serving as the editor of the Middletown Press during the last years of her life. Anyone who has ever worked with Ann or been interviewed by her will tell you that no one knew more about the towns or issues they covered than she did. She delved into any story she was covering and served as a mentor to many up-and-coming reporters at the New Haven Register. Tough, but fair, Ann earned a distinguished reputation among her colleagues and in the community.

When Ann was diagnosed with breast cancer, she did what she did best—shared the story. The result was her column, "Inspirations," which she continued until the very end. She not only wrote about her own battle but shared the stories of others as well. Ann did not just write about breast cancer, she was actively involved in the fight to find a cure. She assisted local charities, serving as honorary chairwoman of the annual Silver Bullets Hamden Police Benefit game as well as Hamden Lights for Life, raising thousands of dollars for much needed research. She was named the New Haven Register's "Person of the Year" in 2008 and I was honored to join the National Organization of Italian American Women in recognizing her as one of the 2012 Wise Women.

Her friends and family will tell you that as dedicated as she was to her professional and charitable work, Ann was also known as the life of the party. She loved karaoke and was always ready to dance. But it is her compassion, generosity, and kind heart that they will remember most. Her friend and colleague, Helen Bennett Harvey may have put it best when she recently said of Ann, "In the end, what she gave so many of us also was an example of true grace under fire. Cancer took Ann's body, but it did not take the beauty and love that emanated from within her."

As I stand today to pay tribute to Ann DeMatteo and honor her legacy, I extend my heartfelt sympathies to her family—her mother, Ann; her brother and sister-in-law, Joseph and Patricia; her nephew and godson, John; and her niece, Rebecca. Put simply, Ann was one of a kind and her presence in our lives will be deeply missed, however, the indelible mark that she left on our community and on our souls will continue to inspire us every day.

HONORING COMPASS, THE GAY
AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CEN-
TER (GLCC) OF PALM BEACH
COUNTY FOR THEIR 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Compass, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center (GLCC) of Palm Beach County for their 25th anniversary and for their continued advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community.

On Saturday, June 29, Compass will hold its annual Stonewall Ball, a party that attracts over 1,000 attendees each year. This ball connects public leaders and elected officials with members of the LGBT community, an essential step in creating opportunities for LGBT citizens of South Florida to participate in public life.

Since its inception, Compass has acted as a true champion of the LGBT community. As the largest gay and lesbian community center in Florida, Compass is visited by more than 25,000 individuals each year. It provides social and health-related support groups for LGBT people and case workers who help obtain treatment for those living with HIV/AIDS. Compass also organizes the Pride Business Alliance, a group that promotes gay-owned and gay-friendly local businesses.

In honor of Compass GLCC's 25th anniversary, I am proud to recognize the entire Compass community for their achievements in promoting awareness and sensitivity to LGBT issues in South Florida.

HONORING MS. ALKEIRA GOOCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a future leader of this country, she is currently a student making a